

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Cancel claims 1-7 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1-7. (Canceled).

8. (Original) A method for producing a perpendicular magnetic recording medium, comprising

a step of forming a cobalt-containing magnetic film directly or with an intervention of an underlayer on a substrate, and

a step of heating said magnetic film.

9. (Original) A method for producing a perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to Claim 8, further comprising:

a step of forming a protective layer on said magnetic layer, and

a step of heating the thus formed layers under atmospheric pressure after the formation of said protective layer, wherein

said step of heating is carried out with the heating temperature no higher than 250°C.

10. (Original) A method for producing a perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to Claim 8, further comprising:

a step of forming a non-magnetic film with hexagonal closed-packed (hcp) structure before the formation of said magnetic film.

11. (Canceled).